

Regular Monthly Meeting of the Kearney Public Schools Board of Education
Kearney Public Schools Board of Education
Monday, May 12, 2025 at 5:30 PM
2nd Floor Staff Development Room, Administration Building
320 W 24th Street
Kearney, NE 68845

1. Routine Business

1.A. Call to Order

President Icenogle called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

1.B. Open Meetings Act Announcement

This is an open, public meeting of the Kearney Public Schools Board of Education, and a copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in this room.

1.C. Board Meeting Decorum Expectations

1.D. Pledge of Allegiance

1.E. Roll Call

1.E.I. Excuse Absent Board Member

Move to excuse absent Board member Amanda Smallcomb from the meeting. This motion, made by John Icenogle and seconded by Drew Blessing, Passed.

Amanda Smallcomb: Absent, Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea, Niki Deeds: Yea, Paul Hazard: Yea, John Icenogle: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

1.F. Approval of the Agenda

Move to approve the agenda for the meeting, as presented. This motion, made by Drew Blessing and seconded by Amy Barth, Passed.

Amanda Smallcomb: Absent, Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea, Niki Deeds: Yea, Paul Hazard: Yea, John Icenogle: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

2. Recognitions

2.A. Recognition of Hanny Arram Center for Success Student Braedyn Ramer for Being Selected to Represent Nebraska as a Voting Delegate at the National Career Development Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana

- Mr. Jason Owens introduced Braedyn Ramer, a student at Hanny Arram Center for Success, and Mrs. Erikka Rhodes, JAG teacher. Mr. Owens added that Braedyn will be graduating as a junior this weekend.
- Braedyn Ramer presented to the board about the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program. JAG is designed to help students prepare for college and careers by offering real-world experiences, guidance for life after high school, and long-term mentorship. HACS is home to one of only three alternative education JAG programs in Nebraska. Mrs. Rhodes shared that JAG students have participated in college and career fairs, leadership conferences, and six college campus visits. They've also engaged with

employers, taken part in service learning, and volunteered in the community. In recognition of their efforts, HACS students received an award from Goodwill Industries for their strong community partnership.

- Braedyn and Mrs. Rhodes attended the National Career Development Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, in April. Braedyn is the first alternative education student to go through the national program and is one of two voting delegates for the state of Nebraska.

2.B. Recognition of Kearney Public Schools Special Education Director, Melisa Dobish for Receiving the Nebraska Association of Special Education Supervisors, Friend of Special Education Award

- Superintendent Mundorf informed the board that he attended the Nebraska Association of Special Education Supervisors (NASES) conference on April 24, 2025, to support Melisa Dobish as she received the Friend of Special Education Award. This prestigious honor recognizes Mrs. Dobish for her outstanding contributions, leadership, and unwavering dedication to the advancement of special education in Nebraska. This award also highlights the significant contributions and impact Mrs. Dobish has made in the field of special education throughout Nebraska in various roles.
- The award came as a surprise to Mrs. Dobish, but it was a memorable day, made even more special by the presence of her family. Mrs. Dobish added that she was shocked and honored to receive the award. She has been blessed to work in wonderful places with wonderful families.

3. Presentations

3.A. Presentation by Catherine Gundersen, Principal, and Amber Taylor, Assistant Principal at Northeast Elementary School on Kindness Bands and Activities

- Mrs. Catherine Gundersen spoke about ways students who always go above and beyond are recognized at Northeast Elementary School. Each quarter, Northeast Elementary teachers submit up to three students, who demonstrate the four kindness traits; kindness includes, kindness encourages, kindness trusts and kindness celebrates. They recognize students at Character Assemblies and invite community members to hand out kindness bands. The college and career readiness goal is met by asking the community members to tell the students about themselves, their career and what it takes to be successful in their job. Students who receive kindness bands get extra privileges during the quarter.

4. Legislative Update

- Mr. Mundorf and Drew Blessing gave an update on the current standing of bills in the Nebraska Legislature.

5. Public Participation/Comment

6. Board Reports

7. Consent Agenda

Move to approve the items on the Consent Agenda, as presented. This motion, made by Drew Blessing and seconded by Niki Deeds, Passed.

Amanda Smallcomb: Absent, Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea, Niki Deeds: Yea, Paul Hazard: Yea, John Icenogle: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

7.A. Approval of Minutes of the April 14, 2025 Regular Meeting; and the May 7, 2025 Board Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Board of Education

7.B. Approval of the May 2025 Claims

7.C. Approval of the May 2025 Financial Reports

7.D. Approval of Horizon and Sunrise Middle School 8th Grade Band Students to Perform in the National Veterans Ceremony on November 11, 2025, in Washington, D.C.

8. Regular Agenda - Personnel

8.A. Approval of the Employment of Certificated Staff

- President Icenogle shared how great it is that KPS has hired another deaf educator, for a total of two now.

Move to employ the certificated staff at Kearney Public Schools for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented. This motion, made by Paul Hazard and seconded by Drew Blessing, Passed.

Amanda Smallcomb: Absent, Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea, Niki Deeds: Yea, Paul Hazard: Yea, John Icenogle: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

9. Regular Agenda - Business

9.A. Approval of the Bid for Milk Products in the Kearney Public Schools for the 2025-2026 School Year

- Mr. Mundorf reported that Mrs. Murphy, Director of Nutrition and Food Services, sent requests for proposals to two milk vendors; Hiland Dairy and Kemps-LeMars. Hiland Dairy submitted the only bid. A slight increase was noted.

Move to accept the bid from Hiland Dairy for milk products in the Kearney Public School for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented. This motion, made by Amy Barth and seconded by John Icenogle, Passed.

Amanda Smallcomb: Absent, Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea, Niki Deeds: Yea, Paul Hazard: Yea, John Icenogle: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

9.B. Approval of the Bid for Bread Products in the Kearney Public Schools for the 2025-2026 School Year

- Mr. Mundorf reported that Mrs. Murphy, sent requests for proposals to two bread vendors; Pan-O-Gold Baking Co. and Bimbo Bakeries. Bimbo Bakeries submitted the lower bid.

Move to approve the bid from Bimbo Bakeries for bread products in the Kearney Public Schools for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented. This motion, made by Paul Hazard and seconded by Niki Deeds, Passed.

Amanda Smallcomb: Absent, Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea, Niki Deeds: Yea, Paul Hazard: Yea, John Icenogle: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

10. Regular Agenda - Miscellaneous

10.A. Approval of Amy Barth, Paul Hazard, and Drew Blessing to Serve as the Board Negotiations Team through the 2025-2026 School Year

Move to approve Amy Barth, Paul Hazard, and Drew Blessing to Serve as the Board Negotiations Team Through the 2025-2026 School Year. This motion, made by John Icenogle and seconded by Niki Deeds, Passed.

Amanda Smallcomb: Absent, Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea, Niki Deeds: Yea, Paul Hazard: Yea, John Icenogle: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

10.B. Approval of John Icenogle, Niki Deeds, and Amanda Smallcomb to Serve as the Board Policy Review Committee through the 2025-2026 School Year

- President Icenogle mentioned that the board felt a need to create a new Board Policy Review Committee. Due to this new committee, all the committees are being reorganized slightly. The Board Policy Review Committee will meet regularly to make sure that our policies are up-to-date with the legislature, the board is in compliance, and that our policies serve the community of Kearney.

Move to approve John Icenogle, Niki Deeds, and Amanda Smallcomb to Serve as the Board Policy Review Committee through the 2025-2026 School Year. This motion, made by John Icenogle and seconded by Drew Blessing, Passed.

Amanda Smallcomb: Absent, Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea, Niki Deeds: Yea, Paul Hazard: Yea, John Icenogle: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

10.C. Approval of Niki Deeds, Amy Barth, and Amanda Smallcomb to Serve as the Board Civics Committee through the 2025-2026 School Year

Move to approve Niki Deeds, Amy Barth, and Amanda Smallcomb to Serve as the Board Civics Committee through the 2025-2026 School Year. This motion, made by John Icenogle and seconded by Paul Hazard, Passed.

Amanda Smallcomb: Absent, Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea, Niki Deeds: Yea, Paul Hazard: Yea, John Icenogle: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

10.D. Approval of an Amended Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with the City of Kearney to Add a 4th Student Resource Officer to Serve the District in the 2025-2026 School

Year. Additionally, the revised MOU will reflect a financial agreement to split the costs of the SROs on an even 50/50 basis with the City of Kearney going forward.

- Mr. Mundorf reviewed the amended Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with the City of Kearney, to add a 4th Student Resource Officer to serve the District in the 2025-2026 School Year. The changes are as follows:
 - Kearney Police Department and Kearney Public Schools agree this agreement will remain in force unless either party submits a 180-day written notice to the other party requesting to terminate the agreement.
 - Furthermore, the parties agree to split the salary and benefits costs of the total number of Kearney Police Department SROs assigned to Kearney Public Schools on an equal basis, (50% cost sharing to each party).
 - The City will invoice KPS for the actual costs incurred pursuant to this agreement not more frequently than monthly. Upon receipt of acceptable invoices, KPS agrees to remit payment within (30) calendar days.
- Sergeant J.C. Small, with Kearney Police Department, explained that a fourth School Resource Officer (SRO) will be necessary due to the upcoming need for an SRO at the new Cottonwood Elementary School starting next school year, as well as someone to cover for other SRO's when they are at training sessions, special assignments, and when there are officer absences due to sick or leave time. A 4th SRO would also make it easier to get the D.A.R.E. program in every elementary school in the district.

Move to approve an Amended Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with the City of Kearney, as presented. This motion, made by Paul Hazard and seconded by Niki Deeds, Passed.

Amanda Smallcomb: Absent, Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea, Niki Deeds: Yea, Paul Hazard: Yea, John Icenogle: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

10.E. Set the Date for the Summer Special Retreat Meeting of the Board of Education
Move to set Monday, June 16, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the Staff Development Room in the Administration Building at 320 W 24th St, Kearney, NE, for a special, public meeting of the Board of Education. This motion, made by John Icenogle and seconded by Drew Blessing, Passed.

Amanda Smallcomb: Absent, Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea, Niki Deeds: Yea, Paul Hazard: Yea, John Icenogle: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

11. Next Meeting

12. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Move to adjourn the meeting. This motion, made by John Icenogle and seconded by Amy Barth, Passed.

Amanda Smallcomb: Absent, Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea, Niki Deeds: Yea, Paul

Hazard: Yea, John Icenogle: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Notice of Meeting

This meeting was publicized in the Kearney Hub on May 8, 2025; radio stations KGFW and KKPR; and KSNB and KHGI T.V.

Drew Blessing, Secretary